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12 January 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI
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SUBJECT : CIA Vietnam Statistics

1. At his 12 January staff meeting, the Director expressed concern about the Vietnam numbers game that is certain to be played in Washington during 1967 with ever increasing heat and political overtones. We cannot control what other agencies do with or about Vietnam statistics. We can and must ensure that, where numbers and data are involved, this Agency always speaks with one voice in all publications, memoranda which go outside this building, and in all oral discussions with non-Agency officials.

2. A vehicle for ensuring this single statistical voice already exists in the form of the DCI Data Book, established and maintained by this office on the basis of inputs furnished by all CIA Vietnam production components. This book is always available for inspection in our office (Room 6F19) during working hours. It is always left in the Watch Office during non-working hours.

3. We can ensure that the Director's wishes are complied with if all producing offices drafting memoranda for publications concerning Vietnam which include figures and other statistical material will check the Data Book before their products are cast in final form. If there are discrepancies, the Data Book figures should be used, or appropriately revised in concert with all interested Agency components. In any event, the component having primary interest in a particular category of statistical data must ensure that current pertinent figures are forwarded to this office on a timely and recurring basis. This way we can resolve internal differences while keeping them internal and make sure that all of our external comments draw on the same statistical base.

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25X1 4. We will, of course, be willing to consider revisions or additions to the Data Book whenever a producing office feels such changes are required or desirable. The Data Book is maintained by [redacted] to whom all matters concerning its contents should be referred. 25X1

[redacted]

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George A. Carver, Jr.
Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs

cc: DCI
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ExDir

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